

GREENBELT News Review

An Independent Newspaper

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15 Crescent Rd., Suite 100, Greenbelt, MD 20770-1887

FEBRUARY 6, 2003

City Council, County School Board Discuss Renovations, TAG at GES

by Mary Moien

The Greenbelt City Council held a stakeholder's meeting on January 29 with the Prince George's County School Board. Board members Abby Crowley and Jose Morales from Greenbelt and Bob Duncan from Laurel, representing the board, attended. David Lever, director of Planning and Architectural Services for the school system was also present.

The city council meets on an occasional basis with organizations whose activities are important to the city. This was the first meeting since the school board was reconfigured from an elected to an appointed board. Members and chair of the Advisory Committee on Education (ACE) were also present.

Major topics included renovation plans for Greenbelt Middle School, overcrowding at some schools, and the rumor of a TAG (talented and gifted) program and transportation issues for Greenbelt Elementary School.

Greenbelt Middle

Council opened the discussion on the Greenbelt Middle School renovation by commenting that the school "is going to fall apart" if something isn't done soon. Lever indicated that renovation has very high priority. Planning approval is being sought from the state right now, he said. School system staff have toured the school and agree "in theory" that the renovation should begin. Budgetary problems may interfere. Lever indicated that renovation of the school is still in the budget but that could change.

Lever encouraged the city to contact their state representatives immediately to push for state planning approval this year. The state is often not willing to approve plans that will not be

implemented quickly and the middle school improvements are not slated to be completed until 2006 or 2007. However, the school is an historic property, he added, and needs significant planning to retain the historic section while new sections around it are constructed. In addition, the property is to be renovated with students remaining in the building, which adds time to the construction process.

The proposed plan calls for a new school wing to be built while students continue to occupy the old school. When that is completed, the students will be moved into the new section as well as a portion of the school that will remain standing. Then the demolition of an older, not historic, section will be undertaken, as well as renovation of the original historic building. This plan seems to have taken some ACE concerns into consideration.

Mayor Judith Davis said that the city had discussed partnering with the school system to rebuild the activity fields at the school and had appropriated \$75,000 for the project. She commented that there are few fields in the Springhill Lake area and that residents would share the fields with students.

Lever appeared to be unaware that the city was interested in helping to fund the fields. He considered it a "significant contribution" to the field renovations. Davis indicated that council wanted to tour the school and the grounds to be more fully informed of planned changes. She was glad that the school board was "sensitive to the wishes" of the city and its citizens.

Overcrowding

With the exception of Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS),

it appears that overcrowding is no longer an issue in local schools. Greenbelt Elementary School has significantly reduced the number of students who are bused to school. All students are now from Greenbelt.

Springhill Lake Elementary School had been significantly overcrowded for several years. However, Davis spoke with Principal Linda Sherwood who indicated that many students have left the school this year as Springhill Lake Apartments have significantly increased rents, causing some families to move. Some Springhill Lake apartment students are being bused to Berwyn Elementary and it is hoped that they can be moved to Springhill Lake Elementary in the future.

ERHS Overcrowding

To ease overcrowding at ERHS, the board had proposed moving some students to Duval. However, after hearing from parents at ERHS, Bowie, and Duval, the board decided to concentrate on improving academics at Duval prior to changing school boundaries. School board member Crowley stated that she would like to see non-Science and Tech transfers to ERHS stopped. The transfers not only overcrowd the school but also undermine the home schools from which students transfer. Currently transfers are allowed for Latin, Russian, Japanese, and for string musicians. She would like to see language transfers eliminated, as most students can take some years of each language in their home school. The string players are a problem, she stated, as no program exists at the home schools.

ERHS is slated for an addition in fall 2006. The addition will reduce overcrowding to 110 percent! The addition will include both classrooms and additional core facilities, such as another cafeteria. ERHS staff and teachers have traditionally taken the

See **COUNCIL**, page 8

What Goes On

Monday, February 10

7 p.m., ACE Meeting with PTA presidents, Municipal Building

7 p.m., Recycling and Environment Advisory Committee Meeting, Community Center

8 p.m., Regular City Council meeting, Municipal Building

Wednesday, February 12

8 p.m., Council Worksession on FY 2002 Report on Visual Arts Education Progress, Community Center

Thursday, February 13
7:30 p.m., GHI Board Meeting, Hamilton Place



PHOTO BY MARY LOU WILLIAMSON

State highway workers erected a sign announcing the auction of a 4.71 acre parcel on the Golden Triangle at Greenbelt Road and Walker Drive adjacent to the Beltway and Capitol Cadillac.

State to Sell at Auction Golden Triangle Property

by James Giese

A sign has been posted on the northeast corner of Walker Drive and Greenbelt Road announcing an auction by the Maryland State Highway Administration of a 4.71-acre parcel of land on the Golden Triangle next to Capitol Cadillac. The auction is scheduled for 12:30 p.m. on Monday, February 24. The land originally was acquired by the state and reserved for a future on-ramp from Greenbelt Road to the Capital Beltway.

Previously, Capitol Cadillac had proposed a long-term lease with the state for use of the land to build showrooms for its Pontiac and Humvee agencies now located in temporary facilities behind the Cadillac showroom. The city had opposed this expansion of the dealership and urged the state to keep the land in public ownership for future public safety use. The Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad told the Greenbelt City Council that it would like the land for a new fire station,

as it would be better located to bring fire and rescue equipment to the outlying areas of the city.

The State Highway Administration decided to declare the land surplus and sell it. Under state law, the land was first offered for sale in May 2002 to local governments. However, the state asked \$1,665,000 for the land, which the city felt was too high a price and more than the city could pay, according to Greenbelt City Manager Michael McLaughlin.

McLaughlin says that he plans to attend the auction and that he expects the city to be ready to bid on the property. However, the city council has not yet met in executive session to determine what the parameters of the city bid will be. He expected that the city would use open space grant funds to pay for the purchase. Open Space funds cannot be used for buying building sites for city buildings such as fire stations but could be used for preserving the land as a park or open space.

Skateboarders Are Left Still Hanging in the Air

by Barbara Hopkins

"A frustrating situation" is how Assistant Recreation Director Joe McNeal described efforts to find a suitable location for the city's proposed skateboard park when he came before the Greenbelt City Council at its regular meeting on January 27. After homeowners and members of the tennis association objected to locating the park on Braden tennis courts 7 and 8, staff reviewed 10 additional sites for the park and then recommended an area between the Youth Center and the Community Center. The site was selected because of its proximity to existing recreation facilities, nearby public parking and limited impact on residential areas. The site would require installation of a skateboarding surface and a fence. It would also interrupt open space used for summer camps, picnics and other events.

School Objections

In addition, council received

a list of objections from the staff of the Greenbelt Nursery School. The park would be located next to the playground used by the school and other groups.

Pamela O'Brien, secretary of the Greenbelt Nursery School Board of Directors, appeared before council to review the school's concerns. She said that locating the skateboard park near the school would expose the young children to behavior and language inappropriate for their age and also distract them from academics.

O'Brien noted that the nursery school is one of a few that has been accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children and, in her opinion, this accreditation would be jeopardized because of reduced safety and academic fac-

See **SKATEBOARD**, page 9

Shuttle Astronauts Remembered



PHOTO BY MARAT MOORE

Workers and local citizens left mementos in front of this sign at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center on Greenbelt Road honoring the six American and one Israeli astronauts who died in the shuttle Columbia upon its return from a 16-day mission on Saturday, February 2. The astronauts included Rick Husband, Michael Anderson, William McCool, Kalpana Chawla, Laurel Clark, Ilan Ramon and David Brown.

Help! Wandering Disks

We've heard it said that no news is too old for the News Review. This is especially true when articles about the Labor Day Festival contest winners are still trickling in after Thanksgiving. Still, last week we outdid ourselves. Turns out the article "Panel Explains Options for Kindergarten Choices," by Amy Hansen appeared in the paper over a year ago.

How did this happen? When a stray disk somehow wandered into our "in" box, an over-zealous staff member sent the article it contained down to our printer.

To puzzled representatives of "public and private schools from the Greenbelt area" who may be scratching their heads because they don't recall "presenting philosophies and logistics when answering the question: what comes after nursery school?" the News Review says, "Relax" and also, mea culpa.

Incidentally, if you are among the valued citizen contributors to the paper who have left some of the hundreds of disks we are holding in a box, just in case — puhlease! Come and pick them up before they, too, wander into our "in" box.

Letters to the Editor

Read Your Meter

Moving in? Better read your electric meter yourself! When you change residence and notify PEPCO to begin service at your new residence, you must explicitly request an actual reading, otherwise you will usually be given an estimated reading to start your service regardless of how much advance notice you provide. Further, this estimated reading may be lower than actual readings recorded by PEPCO on previous dates on the same meter. Thus, when an accurate reading is made a month later to determine your bill for your first month of service at your new address, you may be billed for consuming energy that was already billed to the previous resident.

The Public Service Commission (PSC) has ruled (even on appeal to its chair) that this practice of double-billing is perfectly legal provided that PEPCO properly corrects your bill when you notify PEPCO that it looks too high. If you don't happen to be particularly attentive, you may end up paying for power you did not use.

I would like to collect data on how frequently this problem arises. If you move and PEPCO provides an estimated reading for your start of service, please independently read the meter yourself on the date your service begins. When your bill comes, let me know (you can send an email to jascourt@earthlink.net) the difference between their estimated reading and the actual reading that you made. Let me know regardless of whether their error is in your favor or is an overbilling, otherwise we have no basis to determine whether there is a pattern to the errors.

Also, if you are overbilled, please notify the PSC. Their ruling states that they do not have many complaints about bad initial meter readings and therefore

they do not believe regulations should be added to require estimated initial readings to be greater than all previously recorded readings of the same meter. My concern is that if PEPCO promptly and with no hassle corrects the bills of those who question their bill, then the PSC will receive few complaints and PEPCO could scam off of those who don't notice.

Data are needed to determine whether my experiences are part of a broader practice or an unlikely coincidence, and presently nobody has any such data. The PSC also ruled that regulations should not be added which would require PEPCO to notify customers of the need to explicitly request an actual reading to avoid an estimated initial reading, because they said that the publicly available tariff document provides sufficient notice to customers.

Have you read the tariff? Do you know anyone who has? It seems that the PSC is protecting PEPCO instead of protecting consumers, as was also the case two to three years ago when Greenbelt was experiencing several momentary power outages per month and the PSC closed my case without any action or any change in frequency of power outages until I sent them four additional letters and the city council became involved.

Stephen Jascourt

Brrr...!

So, you thought it was real cold in January, did you? Well, I've got good news for you. You were absolutely right! Here at my modest Hillside Road townhouse, I recorded the following backyard, overnight, January minimum temperatures below 20°F on my trusty outdoor thermometer. Behold their values in ascending but not chronological order — 9.3, 11.3, 12.9, 13.3, 13.8, 14.4 (twice), 14.9, 19.0 and 19.2 (twice).

Happy New Year!
Philip Brandis

THANKS!

Bryn Schultz's family thanks our friends and neighbors who expressed in so many warm and thoughtful ways their sympathy at her passing. Your calls, cards, attendance at the services and food helped us during the weeks immediately following her death. The wonderful obituary brought calls and cards from people we did not even know, but whose life had been touched by Bryn in some way. We knew Greenbelt was a special place, but this experience helped us to understand the motto, "Greenbelt is Great!" Thank you all.

Alan and Michael Schultz

Call School Board

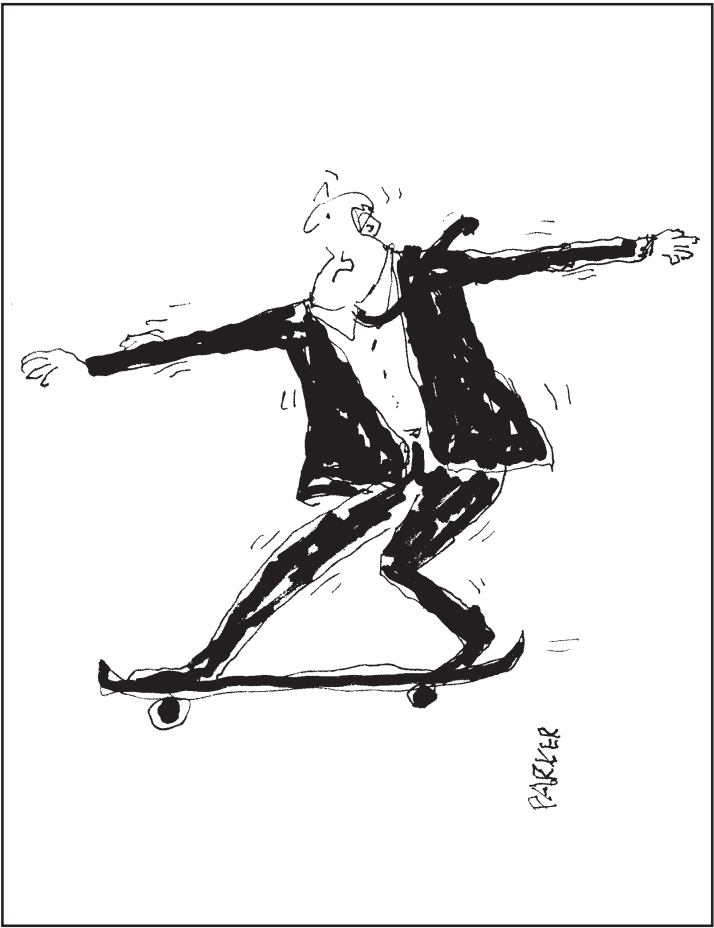
I read with concern the letter to the editor last week regarding the Greenbelt Elementary School sign that has not yet been installed. When I called the person who wrote the letter, I was surprised to learn that she had never contacted any member of the Board of Education for help resolving this matter. Yet she wrote, "perhaps it is communication between the Prince George's Board of Education and the schools that needs to be improved."

See LETTERS, page 3

Correction

The annual meeting in which ACE invites the PTA presidents of Greenbelt's schools will be held Monday, February 10, at 7 p.m. The date in last week's announcement was incorrect.

The Old Curmudgeon



"I was a 'teen-ager' when the city started looking for a skateboard site!"

Greenbelt Arts Center
Presents

An Evening Recital

with
Ingrid Cowan and
Ole Hass

SAT., FEB. 22, 2003
8 P.M.

\$10 Adult,
\$8 Seniors/Students

Call for Reservations 301-441-8770

Greenbelt
News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

James Giese, president; Eileen Farnham, vice president; Diane Oberg, treasurer; Mary Moien, secretary; Virginia Beauchamp, Barbara Hopkins, and Judy Bell.

DEADLINES: Letters, articles and ads—10 p.m. Tuesday. Materials for publication may be mailed to address above, deposited in our box in the Co-op grocery store (by 7 p.m. Tuesday) or brought to our office in the Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, during office hours. Mail subscriptions—\$35/year.

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 8 - 10 p.m.

OLD GREENBELT
THEATRE

Week of February 7
Chicago (PG-13)

Friday
*4:45, 7:30, 10:00

Saturday
*2:00, *4:45, 7:30, 10:00

Sunday
*2:00, *4:45, 7:30, 9:50

Monday - Thursday
*5:00, 7:30

*These shows at \$5.00
301-474-9744 • 301-474-9745
129 Centerway
www.pgtheatres.com

Videos

GREENBELT VIDEO

DVDs

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You Are Invited to Join Us –
Every Thursday 7:45 a.m. for Breakfast!
At the Marriott Hotel on Ivy Lane
For Lots of Fun, Food and Fellowship

Please join us at our second annual Silent Auction
Friday, March 28, 7 p.m. at the Greenbelt Marriott
Advertise your business by donating an auction item!

Call Jennifer Jones (301) 441-4770
for details

City Council Letter

(At the request of citizens, members of the Greenbelt City Council signed the following letter sent to President George W. Bush.)

Dear President Bush:

At its meeting of January 27, 2003, the Greenbelt City Council decided to bring to your attention its concerns regarding the situation in Iraq. The Council joins with many other cities in urging you to pursue and exhaust all possible diplomatic and peaceful options before committing U.S. military forces to hostile actions.

Any military action could result in significant casualties among innocent Iraqi civilians and military personnel on both sides. Many Greenbelt residents and their friends and families who serve in the military would be at risk. Such a conflict would have a significant economic cost to our country as well, preventing funds from being used toward other priorities such as education, health care, the environment, housing and public infrastructure.

This is undoubtedly one of the most difficult decisions any American President is called upon to make. We support our country and believe that, as a responsible world leader, the United States has both the ability and the obligation to pursue every possible alternative other than armed conflict in order to achieve the just goals of the U.S. and the international community.

We urge your administration and our elected representatives in Congress to seek a peaceful resolution in conjunction with the United Nations. Such a solution must be an international, diplomatic effort that fosters democracy and respect for human rights in Iraq and throughout the Middle East.

As always, we support the women and men serving in our armed forces. We strongly urge you as Commander-in-chief to use all options available before deploying our troops and putting them unnecessarily in harm's way.

Judith F. Davis, Mayor
Rodney Roberts, Mayor Pro-Tem
Edward V.J. Putens, City Council
Alan Turnbull, City Council
Thomas X. White, City Council

LETTERS continued from page 2

We are a newly appointed board and we do not represent geographic areas as the old board did. I know that the public has been confused about whom to call when they have concerns that they have not been able to resolve by talking to their child's teacher, principal or regional director. I would like to invite the public to consider all of the board members "your board member." Please call the board office at 301-952-6117, or, if you have internet access, go to the board page of the PGCPs website (www.pgcps.org). You can click on any or all of us and email your concern. We have developed a tracking system to insure that your issue is funneled to someone who can respond and that issues do not get lost in the process.

Each board member is also chair of a committee and serves on several others. Knowing our committee assignments may help you decide which of us to contact with specific issues. I am chair of the Instruction and Accountability committee and would be a good one to call about your concerns in that area. Other board members oversee student

appeals, finance, policy, technology, personnel, partnerships, legislative affairs, capital improvements and the Master Plan.

Most of all, may I respectfully request that citizens give the board an opportunity to help resolve your problem before we are criticized and further bad news about our school system makes it into the newspapers. We want to be responsive. Building a positive image of the Prince George's County Public Schools is in the best interest of all of the children and families we serve.

As for the Greenbelt Elementary School sign, I was told that the permit applications have been submitted and that we can expect it to be installed in about a month. I look forward to seeing it as I pass the school.

Abby I. W. Crowley, EdD,
board member,
Prince George's County
Public Schools

Protect Pets – It's the Law

Thanks to Darlene Brengle for submitting the letter, Pets Need Protecting in Extreme Weather, January 30, 2003. Please be aware that leaving animals out in the cold without proper shelter is against the law. If you see animals unattended in the cold – or the heat in the summer – please call Greenbelt Animal Control, P.G. Animal Control and/or 911; your call will be confidential. This is not just a responsibility for animal guardians – it is the law. Cruelty to animals is now a felony in the state of Maryland.

Don't wait for your neighbor's cat or dog to freeze to death. The animals can't speak – so we must for them. Their lives depend on each of us to do our part to protect them, and that means watching out for them and calling the proper authorities when necessary. Thanks for advocating for the animals.

Cam MacQueen

One-sided Audience?

I cannot fathom why the City Council voted to send an anti-war letter to government officials without an open discussion of all points of view on this policy. It seems that the Council drafted this letter with only a one-sided audience in attendance. Surely prudence would dictate that an advance notice of this topic be published to allow for other, differing viewpoints to be presented.

Saddam Hussein poses a grave threat to our national life. Can one imagine the effects of a mass distribution of anthrax, smallpox, sarin or highly radioactive material on a New York subway, or in our Metro? It is perfectly obvious that Saddam would provide this material to terrorists whenever he found it possible.

I am especially incensed at the proponents of this anti-war policy claiming to possess the moral high ground. Good people can differ on a policy, but is it really moral to place the American public at such a terrible risk? I remind readers that some

Eleanor Roosevelt High School
presents

"Once On This Island"
Fri. & Sat., Feb. 7 & 8 at 7:30pm
Sun., Feb. 9 at 2:30pm

Produced by Mrs. Judy Moore
Directed by Ms. Julie Garner
Come out to see several of
Greenbelt's young stars!

Tickets \$7 adults/\$5 students, seniors
Tickets will be sold at the door

PRELIMINARY AGENDA MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thursday, February 13, 2003
(Immediately following Executive Session)
GHI BOARD ROOM



Executive Session - 7:00 PM

- Review a Membership Application

GHI Key Agenda Items

- Member Request to Purchase Garages – 1A & 1B Ridge Road
- Member Request for Installation of Glass Block Windows – 33 R Ridge Road
- Annual Community Beautification Program for 2003
- Forest Conservation Mgmt. Agreement & Renewal Options
- Woodlands Committee – Forest Management Plan
- Fee Reallocations – Finance Committee Presentation to Board
- Pest Control Contract – 1st Reading

Regular board meetings are open to members.

of the September 11 terrorists are known to have walked on our sidewalks here in Greenbelt. They used our library, our stores and fitness centers and received the services of one of our local distinguished physicians. Isn't it amazing that none of these "higher moral standard" people recognized these individuals for the evil that they held in their hearts? The terrorists walked on our streets and then went straight off to crash flight 77 into the Pentagon, killing nearly 200 people.

Our council ought to have been more careful before submitting its letter.

Thank you for your attention.
Shalom Fisher

Why a School Sign

The school sign was purchased by Greenbelt Elementary School PTA for several reasons. One was to communicate about the events taking place at our school. In these busy times we hope that with a constant reminder of events to parents and the community, attendance will increase. Instead of 30 to 40 parents at our honor roll assemblies, don't our children deserve 75 to 100? With an enrollment of over 450, instead of 20 involved, concerned parents at a meeting we hope for over 450. With GES now a community school, we want to inform not just our current parents but our entire community of the many exciting things happening at our school. Maybe parents would think twice before they sent their child to an "outside" school.

Greenbelt Elementary School PTA supports their school in many, many ways. We fully fund the Reading Is Fundamental Program. This allows every student to choose at least two free books. We support the honor roll assemblies, sponsor field trips, donate

books to our teachers and library, make a donation to teachers for school supplies, donate two savings bonds for sixth graders, provide our teachers with a lunch and provide the "caught you being good" reward for each winning class every semester. This list covers just a few ways GES PTA supports our school.

Also in the wake of September 11th, the PTA purchased new and improved walkie-talkies for our school. This allows constant communication throughout our school, school grounds and the Greenbelt Police Department.

So – why the sign? In my two years as president we were very involved throughout our school. We want to maintain, even increase, the involvement in educating our children. GES PTA feels this is one of many steps to help continue our efforts.

Rebecca Roper
PTA President 2000-2002

Old News

Thanks to the News Review for publishing my article about Greenbelt Nursery School's Kindergarten Night. Unfortunately, the article published was written about the 2001 Kindergarten Night, not the more recent 2002 Kindergarten Night. While the article is still generally accurate, I would like to mention that Greenbelt Elementary and St. Hugh's Schools both sent representatives to the 2002 Kindergarten night. These women explained their schools' philosophies and logistics for their full-day kindergarten programs. Parents should contact schools for more information.

Amy Hansen

LOVE NOTES
ARE COMING



ATTENTION GHI MEMBERS

NOTIFICATION OF RENTAL GARAGE INSPECTIONS

This is an announcement to alert members that inspections for usage of rental garages in GHI will begin soon. The inspection is in accordance with the newly revised Parking Regulations, copy of which was distributed to members with the last issue of *The Communicator*. Members will not be notified in advance as to the date when the inspections will occur.

Greenbelt Boys and Girls Club



SPRING SOCCER Ages 5-17

Register at the following locations:

Greenbelt Youth Center

Sat., Feb. 8, 10-11am
Thurs., Feb. 13, 7-8pm
Thurs., Feb. 20, 7-8pm

If you are new to the club, please bring: small picture, proof of residency, birth certificate or passport, sports fee of \$65 payable by cash, check or money order. Don't forget to ask about family discounts.

For more information, call our 24 hour voicemail at 301-794-0100. COACHES ARE NEEDED! Please call to have an application mailed to you.

MEN NEEDED FOR ENERGY STUDY

Healthy men 30-69 years needed for USDA/Johns Hopkins University 14-day study in Beltsville. Must attend 1-hour information meeting Feb. 10-13 or 24-28, plus 2 medical screening visits. Main study involves 5-6 visits; pays up to \$375. See meeting times and directions at www.barc.usda.gov/bhncr/foodsurvey/home.htm or leave name, phone, and either e-mail or home address at 301-504-0347.



Organ Recital At Holy Cross

Holy Cross Lutheran Church is presenting Erik Meyer in an organ recital. Meyer's background includes honors at Albert Schweitzer Organ Festival, American Guild Organists Competition, the Oundle England School for Organists and the 2002 Hochschule fur Musik Academy in Leipzig, Germany. His music career began at the piano at age five and includes organ instruction at Peabody Institute in Baltimore and even playing tuba in a high school marching band – "the only person willing to carry it." Meyer's recital features works by J.S. Bach, Franck, Locklair and Reubke.

The recital followed by a reception is Sunday, February 9, beginning at 4 p.m. Holy Cross is at 6905 Greenbelt Road. For information call the church at 301-345-5111 between 9 a.m. and noon. There is no charge.


Greenbelt CARES

The week of January 27, it was reported that during the month of January, 15 families on average were seen for counseling services at CARES. On average, 47 individuals came on a weekly basis, among whom 12 were 18 years of age and younger. There were 63 students who participated in tutoring services.

Peace Poetry Read At New Deal Café

The New Deal Café will open its doors February 12 beginning at 7 p.m. for the presentation of peace poetry. It is hoped several of the 1,900 poets from the White House Symposium on "Poetry and the American Voice" will read that day. First Lady Laura Bush indefinitely postponed the symposium because "some invited guests wanted to turn what is intended to be a literary event into a political forum."

People who are interested in reading poetry should contact the Café via email at newdealcafe@greenbelt.com. To learn more, visit <http://poetry.macworkshops.com>.



Catholic Community of Greenbelt

MASS


Sundays 10 A.M.
Municipal Building

Baha'i Faith

We invite you to . . .
Interfaith Devotions and
Classes for Children & Adults
Sunday, February 9 at 10 AM
Springhill Lake Elementary School

"O My Friend in Word! Ponder awhile. Hast thou ever heard that friend and foe should abide in one heart? Cast out then the stranger, that the Friend may enter His home."
-Baha'i Sacred Writings

Greenbelt Baha'i Community
P.O. Box 245
Greenbelt, MD 20770
301-345-2918 301-220-3160
www.bahai.org/



Ruth Madge Dee

Ruth Madge Dee, 78, of Middletown, Md. died Monday February 3, 2003 at Frederick Memorial Hospital.

Born in Poplar Bluff, Mo., November 9, 1924, she was a daughter of the late John F. and Maggie Clayton Dee. Ms. Dee began her career as a hospital administrator in Poplar Bluff. After moving to the Washington, D.C. area, she worked for the FBI before becoming the office manager of a law firm. Prior to her retirement, she was the office manager for a nonprofit organization. In retirement in Ocean City, Md., she helped with the exercise program at the Berlin Nursing and Rehab Center.

She was a long time Methodist regularly attending Mowatt United Methodist Church in Greenbelt, the Atlantic United Methodist Church in Ocean City, Md. and most recently she attended Trinity United Methodist Church in Frederick.


She was a lifetime member of the Beta Sigma Phi service sorority and in the late '60s and early '70s was an active committee member of Greenbelt Boy Scout Troop 746 where she received the District Award of Merit for her volunteer support.

She is survived by a son and daughter-in-law, Hoyt E. and Roberta M. Matthai; two grandchildren, Adam L. and Kaitlyn M. Matthai all of Middletown, Md.; one brother, William Dee, Sr. of Poplar Bluff, Mo.; two sisters, Mary Lou Britton of Murrieta, Calif. and Doris Dee of Sherman Oaks, Calif.; and 10 nieces and nephews.

The family will receive friends from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday, February 6 at the Donald B. Thompson Funeral Home, 31 E. Main St., Middletown, Md. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 8 at graveside in Three Springs Cemetery in Poplar Bluff.

GREENBELT BAPTIST CHURCH

Corner of Crescent and Greenhill Roads 301-474-4212
www.greenbeltbaptist.org greenbelt.baptist@verizon.net
Dr. Mark Johnson, Pastor



Sun. Worship 8:35 am, 11:00 am, 6:00 pm
Wed. Praise and Prayer 7:00 pm
Wed. Living Proof, Youth Event 7:00 pm


"Building Bridges to the Family of God thru the Love of Christ"



Congregation Mishkan Torah

10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, Maryland 20770, 301-474-4223
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Obituaries

Memorial contributions may be made to the charity of one's choice.

James Andrew White

James Andrew White, 38, formerly of Woodland Way, died suddenly on Wednesday, January 29, 2003, in Washington, D.C.

He attended St. Hugh's Catholic School in Greenbelt and St. Jerome's Catholic School in Mt. Rainer, Md., Gonzaga College High School in Washington, D.C. and Eleanor Roosevelt High School in Greenbelt. He later attended Prince George's Community College and Georgetown University.

For most of his adult life, Jim worked as a law librarian with Washington, D.C. law firms, first with Akin-Gump, and for the past seven years with Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice.

A student of and ardent defender of the U.S. Constitution, especially its Bill of Rights and the Federalist Papers, he always enlivened discussions with family and friends with stimulating and intellectually rich commentary on contemporary politics, topics of the day or U.S. history. He followed federal court cases in this area and cited relevant decisions to bolster his arguments.

This aspect of Jim's character was likely formed during his early teen years as a member of the Catholic Youth Organization "Young Americans" at St. Hugh's School. He was an active participant in the group's performance of its patriotic program, "America's Story Retold." The group of seven to eight young men performed before many community groups and in 1976 was awarded an honor medal from the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge.

He was an avid reader, loved

music and wrote poetry. He also loved to travel and did so, mainly to Europe and within the United States. At the time of his death, he was planning a trip to South Asia to visit his sister in New Delhi this spring.


He is survived by his parents, Tom and Helen, of Greenbelt; four sisters, Penny (Marco) Sandoval of Thousand Oaks, Calif., Chris (Marco D'Ottavi) White currently of New Delhi, India, Pamela (Carl) Quick of Phoenix, Ariz., and Ellen White of Takoma Park, Md.; two brothers, Mark White of Washington, D.C. and Tom (Jennifer Beman) White of Takoma Park; 17 nieces and nephews; and numerous cousins, aunts and uncles from Tom and Helen's large extended families.

Visitations for family, friends and associates were held at the Borgwardt Funeral Home in Beltsville on Tuesday, February 4. A funeral mass was celebrated at St. Hugh's Catholic Church in Greenbelt on Wednesday, February 5. Following interment at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Silver Spring, Md., the family hosted a reception at the Greenbelt American Legion Post #136.

The family has requested that memorial contributions be made to So Others May Eat (S.O.M.E.), 71 O Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001, Attn: Michael Grant.

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Rev. R. Scott Hurd, Pastoral Associate
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Worship Service	11:00 am
Mon. Disciple Bible Study	7:00 p.m.
Tues. Lectionary Study	8:00 a.m.
Wed. Prayer Meeting	6:45 p.m.

Rev. DaeHwa Park, Pastor

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POLICE BLOTTER

Based on information released by the Greenbelt Police Department.
Dates and times are those when police were first contacted about incidents.

Robbery

9200 block Springhill Lane, January 29, 11:07 p.m., a man was walking in front of the Springhill Lake Shopping Center when he was approached by two suspects, one armed with a semi-automatic rifle. The suspect with the gun demanded money. After obtaining it as well as jewelry and a cellular telephone, the suspects fled on foot. They are described as two black males, 5'4", medium builds, wearing all black clothing and a black scarf.

Theft

Beltway Plaza, January 24, 12:20 p.m., an unattended wallet was taken from PetsMart.

Eleanor Roosevelt High School, January 27, 1:14 p.m., an unattended cellular telephone was taken from a gym bag.

With reference to an incident at the Bank of America on September 7, 2001, an arrest warrant has been obtained charging a 33-year-old Bowie resident with theft, forgery and uttering a false document.

With reference to an identity theft reported October 4 at the Sun Trust Bank, an arrest warrant has been obtained charging a 45-year-old New York woman with attempted theft.

Counterfeit

Beltway Plaza, January 25, 8:33 p.m., someone tried to pay for a movie ticket at the Academy Theaters with what turned out to be a counterfeit twenty-dollar bill. It appears that the

person was not aware that the bill was counterfeit.

Drugs

Eleanor Roosevelt High School, January 27, 12:20 p.m., a 15-year-old resident was arrested for possession of marijuana. The student was released to school administrators pending action by the juvenile justice system.

Eleanor Roosevelt High School, January 29, 11:45 a.m., a 14-year-old resident was arrested for possession of marijuana. The student was released to school administrators pending action by the juvenile justice system.

Vehicle Crime

The following vehicles were reported stolen: a red 2000 Dodge Caravan, Md. tags M536303, January 24, from the 6100 block Springhill Terrace; a 1999 Dodge Intrepid four-door, January 25, from the 6000 block Springhill Drive, which was recovered the same day by Metropolitan Police in D.C.; a 1995 GMC Yukon, January 26, from the 7800 block Hanover Parkway, which was recovered January 27 by State Police in Upper Marlboro; a 2002 Dodge Stratus four-door, January 27, from the 9200 block Springhill Lane, which was recovered January 30 by Park Police in Fort Foote in an incident involving one juvenile arrest; a black 1997 Plymouth Breeze four-door, Md. tags DXN939, January 27, from the 8100 block Lakecrest Drive; a 1998 Chrysler Concorde four-door, January 27, from the 7800

Osborne Killer Gets Life Imprisonment

On February 3, U.S. District Judge Deborah Chasanow sentenced Rufus Millegan, Jr., to 23 years to life in prison for the kidnapping and murder of Tessa Mae Osborne. Osborne was fatally shot May 1, 2001, at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center.

Last month Millegan pleaded guilty to murder, kidnapping and using a firearm during a violent felony in connection with Osborne's slaying. In exchange, federal prosecutors agreed not to seek the death penalty against him.

Millegan's co-defendant, Cornell W. McClure, 24, is to go on trial April 22.

block of Mandan Road, which was recovered the next day by County Police in Forestville; a tan 1994 Nissan Altima four-door, Md. tags KEM442, January 27, from the 200 block Lakeside Drive.

Three vehicles stolen prior to the period of this report were recovered.

Vandalism to, thefts from and attempted theft of vehicles were reported in the following areas: 9100 block Springhill Court; 5900 block Cherrywood Lane; 7800 block Jacobs Drive; 6100 block Breezewood Court; 100 block Westway; 7900 block Lakecrest Drive.

The Department is offering a reward of up to \$500 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of a suspect in any of the unsolved crimes reported in the blotter. Citizens may anonymously report suspected drug activity by calling the Drug Tip Line at 301-507-6522. Victims of the theft of lawn ornaments, tools, lawn mowers, etc., should contact Criminal Investigations at 301-507-6530. Some items have been recovered and police would like to return them to owners.

COUNCIL continued from page 1

stance that the school is not overcrowded. Losing students means losing critical staff. This year, because of fewer students, the school "lost a beloved drama teacher" and almost lost a music position.

School board member Duncan commented that all county schools will become overcrowded in the near term with a boom of school-age children. Mayor Davis commented rhetorically that it was strange that we didn't know until last summer that so many more students are expected in the next few years. Mayor pro-tem Rodney Roberts asked if the school system had thought of other ideas, such as year-long school. Davis added the idea of split shifts. Crowley responded that those kinds of changes cut out the types of activities that make a high school good and memorable for the students.

Transportation

Transportation problems in Greenbelt center on students who live in University Square Apartments. Currently elementary students must walk to school if the distance is 1.5 miles or less. School board member Jose Morales indicated that 32 students from these apartments are affected. They were bused in error last year. Morales measured two ways to walk to Greenbelt Elementary, both within the 1.5 mile limit. Students at Charlestowne Village, just across the street from University Square, are bused, but there is no room on

the bus for the other 32 students.

Duncan stated that the county is paying 30-40 percent more per capita for transportation than any other area in the state. Some of the extra money is used when students are moved back to a neighborhood school. Often upper-class students are allowed to stay at their current school to cause less disruption to the students.

This policy costs more for transportation as buses now travel to two schools instead of one. Also magnet students are picked up close to their homes, while Montgomery County requires magnet students to go to a "cluster" bus stop.

Davis recalled walking to school as a child, but said, "It's a different age." Crowley stated that this year, with a tough budget, is not the year to cut the mileage range for walkers.

Councilmember Alan Turnbull made several suggestions regarding walking and safety. One was "the walking school bus," which has students meeting and walking to school as a group. Another idea was "safe route to school," which sets the route to take. Turnbull commented that students can often walk the distance but that parents consider it too long or too dangerous.

A third suggestion was to pay a parent to walk the kids to and from school. Crowley asked ACE to consider having a meeting with

University Square parents to work on the walking issues. The advisory committee had asked Greenbelt Elementary staff for the names of students from the apartment complex but those names could not be provided because of privacy issues. ACE will address the topic.

TAG at Greenbelt

There had been rumors that Greenbelt Elementary School might have a Talented and Gifted Program next year. Crowley indicated that the budget will not allow for this to take place then. Additional moneys had been pledged to the school system in the Thornton budget, funding to return students to neighborhood schools. However, it now appears that the state considered those funds also to include TAG and magnet funds, which the county school system had thought were in addition to the Thornton funds. Furthermore, the status of the magnet program is still undecided. Plans for redrawing magnet boundaries were not accepted and new boundaries are being proposed.

The meeting ended with a discussion of the increasing numbers of children not going to the local schools. ACE member Jeff Morissette wants to survey children to see where they go to school and work on plans to entice them back to neighborhood schools. They proposed looking into a "neighborhood kids, neighborhood schools" campaign.

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SKATEBOARD continued from page 1

tors if a skateboard park were built next to the school. She said some young children might be frightened by the noise of the skateboarders and the mere presence of older children and that this fear could be expressed by a child as not wanting to go to school.

The youngsters also might try to emulate the behavior of the older children, she said, putting themselves at risk by attempting to engage in an activity inappropriate for their age. O'Brien also feared the language and conversation of the older children would be inappropriate for those of nursery school age.

Councilmembers Thomas White and Rodney Roberts both felt that the two uses of the area were not mutually exclusive. Mayor Judith Davis suggested that it might be a positive thing for the youngsters to be exposed to older children who are wearing protective equipment and following a set of rules while enjoying the park. She wanted staff to sit down with nursery school representatives to try to find ways around the school's

objections. She added that if the school's staff were aware of just how the skateboard park would be run, their fears might be alleviated.

Councilmember Alan Turnbull described his criteria for the skateboard park, which effectively eliminated all sites but the parking lot. Council had previously rejected using part of the parking lot in order to preserve parking spaces. An area near the swimming pool suggested at an earlier session was rejected because of its small size.

White wanted to steer clear of this site because it involves the rebound wall that is part of the old swimming pool and he felt its historical significance should be respected. Davis noticed that this site had nearly the same advantages and drawbacks as the one beside the nursery school. She suggested that staff could look into the possibility of somehow expanding the area.

Citizen Input

Several citizens attending the meeting addressed council on the issue. Like O'Brien, Lestina Colby was concerned that the

school accreditation would be in danger if the skateboard park were located close to the playground. She argued that this is where that focus should be. She said she had experience in school accreditation and in her opinion the school's accreditation would be at serious risk with the skateboard park next to the playground because of increased activity in the area with skateboarders coming and going. She also endorsed the other reasons listed by O'Brien and the nursery school staff.

Ed Kapplinger, who originally became involved in the issue when tennis courts were the proposed site, suggested that a temporary blind be constructed between the nursery school and the park until some type of hedge row had a chance



to grow up to create a more attractive barrier between the neighboring uses of the area. As for noise from the skateboarders being a problem, he said he had heard plenty of noise from the nursery school, so he thought this was a debatable issue. He understood, he said, that the skateboard park would have supervision and that foul language would be forbidden.

Muriel Balzer, president of the tennis association, asked council to find a way to enforce current regulations forbidding skateboarding on city property. She said she had offered the skateboarders tennis courts 7 and 8 until the city park could be established because those courts needed resurfacing anyway. Unfortunately the skateboarders had continued to use other courts as

well, she said. She noted that they damaged the courts in various ways, such as stretching the nets when they run into them. She said the behavior of the skateboarders did not motivate her to want to help them any further.

Decision Deferred

In the end Davis asked McNeal to get more information about the accreditation criteria and process for the nursery school and have recreation staff and nursery school representatives meet to see if the school's fears could be alleviated. She also wanted staff to take a second look at the area where the rebound wall is, behind the swimming pool, to see if the size of it could be increased, making it another alternative site. She asked City Manager Michael McLaughlin to put the topic on the agenda for council's next meeting on February 10.



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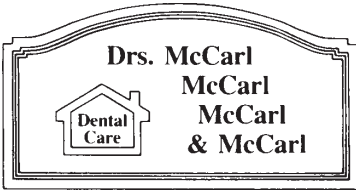
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SINGING CLASS - Greenbelt Arts Center Beginning Singing class starts February 12, 6:30 p.m. Learn basic vocal technique and exercises. Sing with others. Develop and improve your singing voice. Perform at a recital. Info or registration, 301-441-8770 ext. 3.

♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥
GET YOUR LOVE NOTES to us soon. Love notes will appear in next week's paper (see ad on page 12 for rates). Deadline for submission: February 11

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Walk to the Center from this beautiful 2 br. home with 11'x17' mbr. Remodeled kitchen w. dishwasher & disposal. \$129,900 U.C.

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Great location - end of cul-de-sac & backs to open parkland. 4 br & 2 bath home with large porch, deck, & fin. basement. Coming Soon!

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Why pay rent when you can buy this affordable home in Greenbelt. New carpet downstairs and fresh paint throughout. \$76,900 U.C.

Chelsea Woods
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1 Bedroom Townhome
Great location near USDA Research Center. Upper level, end unit home with attic & private entrance. Washer & dryer \$51,900 U. C.

End Unit With Large Corner Lot
Great townhome that has been completely renovated. Opened stairway & kitchen. Fenced yard with large shed. Nice! \$83,900 SOLD

2 Bedroom Brick End Unit
Near Roosevelt Center. Remodeled kitchen with dishwasher and modern cabinetry. 11'x17' Master br. Corner lot. \$119,900 SOLD

3 Bedroom Townhome
This home has a remodeled kitchen with breakfast bar and dishwasher. Large yard with shed that backs to woods. \$79,900 SOLD

Woodland Way - Single Family Home
Rare! Detached home in GHI- structure maintained by the Co-op. Everything on one level; no stairs. Garage included. \$158,000 SOLD

End Unit With 2-Story Addition
Masonry block townhome on large, corner lot. Addition is perfect for artist's studio or work-at-home professional. Nice! \$134,900 SOLD

U.C. = Under contract; seller may consider back-up offers



New Children's Book Helps with Operations

by Dorothy Sucher

Few things are scarier to a child than the prospect of a stay in the hospital, especially if it involves surgery and anesthesia. Parents, doctors and nurses do the best they can to make the experience less frightening and now they have a new tool: "Sweet Dreams at the Hospital," a coloring and activity book for children in this situation. The author is Marjorie Bergemann, a longtime Greenbelt resident who recently moved from her home on Lakeside Drive to Leesburg, Va.

Bergemann told the News Review, "Well, I finally did it. I actually published the book that's been in my head for 31 years. I originally sketched out a version of the book for my daughter Eve when she was scheduled for some surgery 31 years ago. She asked me what would happen to her. I showed her with stick figures and dialogue. She took her little booklet to the hospital with her. Eventually it found its way into my file drawer."

Last year Bergemann happened to describe the project to the editor of AANA Publications. He was interested and found an artist to draw the pictures. "I did the dialogue," said Bergemann, "and the rest is history." All the characters in the

coloring book are depicted as animals. Bergemann is hoping her book will be used in every hospital, surgeon's office and anesthesia department in the country.

Known to many in town as the warm-hearted, outgoing wife of the late Dr. Till Bergemann, who practiced medicine in Roosevelt Center for decades, Marge Bergemann is a retired certified registered nurse anesthetist. News Review readers may recall her brief stint in the culinary limelight a few years ago when she was one of the national finalists in the Pillsbury Bake-Off for her delectable chocolate peanut butter bars.

During her long nursing career she administered anesthesia at Prince George's Hospital, Georgetown University Hospital and the National Institutes of Health. Born on Staten Island, NY, she is a graduate of Fordham Hospital School of Nursing, the Prince George's Hospital School of Nurse Anesthesia and Ottawa University.

Single copies of Bergemann's little book are free. Packages of 10 may be ordered for a fee by e-mailing AANA Bookstore at www.shorton@aana.com or by calling 847-692-7050 extension 3009.

Black History About Women

In celebration of Black History Month the National Park Service will present a series of lectures on the history of African-American women. Lectures will take place every Tuesday evening in the month of February beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site located at 1318 Vermont Ave., N.W.

On February 11 Dr. Paul Phillips Cooke will speak on Bethune's Washington. Cooke graduated from the famous "M" Street School in N.W. Washington, D.C., now known as Dunbar High School. He graduated in the 1930s during the time that Mary McLeod Bethune came to Washington, D.C.

February 18, Quito Swan, a graduate student from Howard University, will speak on women in Jamaica, West Indies and civil rights. February 25, Dr. Donald Roe, a professor of the Department of History at Howard University, will speak on African American women and their progress in the film industry. For further information contact the Mary McLeod Council House at 202-673-2402.

Alternative Ed Pilot Program Opened

Prince George's County Public Schools has established an Alternative Education Pilot Program that will serve as a positive learning environment for expelled high school students from the county school system. The goal of the program, located in Bladensburg, is to give students social skills and educational expertise to become successful in the next phase of education or in the work place. The goal will be achieved collaboratively among the following organizations: Prince George's County Public Schools, Prince George's County Department of Juvenile Justice, Prince George's County Health Department and Prince George's County Department of Social Services.

The school system was awarded a \$1.9 million grant from the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) in December 2001 to fund the program and an additional \$450,000 from the state to renovate a school to house the program in 2002. MSDE selected Prince George's schools from the state's 24 systems. State officials consider this an important effort to educate troubled youths and will be monitoring closely the success of the Prince George's project. Should the pilot be successful, MSDE officials hope to implement the alternative education program in other school systems throughout the state.

"Our goal is to serve all children, including those who have had some difficulty in the traditional school structure," said Kaye Stumb, director of student support programs. "We are honored that this grant was awarded to Prince George's County Public Schools to provide a much-needed alternative program for some of those students, to offer them a second chance to get excited about education and what it can mean for their future."

The new program will be opened to students Monday, February 3. For information about the program contact the Alternative Programs Office at 301-408-7934.

Bright Shiny Moon

The Owens Science Center will present the next episode in its planetarium series, Bright and Shiny Moon, on Friday, February 14. Doors open at 7:15 p.m. and the program begins at 7:30 p.m. There is a fee. For more information call 301-918-8750.

Forgive to Heal

Learn some practical ways to start the process of healing and recovery from resentments and bitterness by letting go. The free class will be held on Wednesday, February 12 at 7 p.m. at Washington Adventist Hospital in Takoma Park. For more information call 1-800-542-5096. Advanced registration is required.

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Deadline for submission: February 11!

Memorial Tree Planted



PHOTO BY JOHN OTT

On January 29 several of the late Jessica Katz's friends and neighbors gathered at the memorial tree planted in her honor. She had been a resident of the 42 Court of Ridge Road and an employee at Goddard. Her companion and caretaker Mary Ellen Atkinson organized the collection of funds for the tree and its memorial plaque, located between the Community Center and the Youth Center. The friends remember Jessie as "a sweet and wonderful friend and neighbor who is sorely missed," according to Keith Gary. From left are Pat Stokes, Tom Murphy, Keith Gary, Mary Ellen Atkinson.

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